

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 /071 W
-----060979 231734Z /46

P 231620Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5484
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: THE INTERPARTYPROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS--AN END IN SIGHT?

REF: ROME 9815

SUMMARY. THE CONSLUDING PHASE OF THE INTERPARTY NEGOTIATIONS
FOR AN AGREEMENT ON THE CONTENT OF THE MINRITY GOVERNMENTS
PROGRAM IS TO BEGIN THIS WEEKEND. HOWEVER, THE
POLITICAL-LEVEL "COLLEGIAL" NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DC
AND THE FIVE ABSTAINING PARTIES ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE
WELL INTO NEXT WEEK. BEFORE AN AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED,
HOWEVER, IT WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE RATIFIED BY THE
INDIVIDUAL PARTIES AT MEETINGS OF THE RESPECTIVE POLITICAL
DIRECTORATES. THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE QUESTION AS TO
HOW THE AGREEMENT WILL BE VOTED ON IN PARLIAMENT (IE.THE
PORBLEM OF POLITICAL "GUARANTEES") WILL AFTERWARD ALSO HAVE
TO BE SETTLED. ALTHOUGH THE INTERMEDIATE PARTIES--FOR A
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VARIETY OF REASONS--HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DISSATISFACTION
WITH THE STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE, THERE PREVAILS
AN ATMOSPHERE OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN
BE WRAPPED UP BY THE END OF JUNE WHICH CAN BE TRANSLATED
INTO ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL GUARANTEES BEFORE PARLIAMENT'S SUMMER
RECESS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF LAST WEEK'S COLLEGIAL NEGOTIATIONS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL, THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THEY HAD GONE AS FAR AS THEY COULD, AND THAT REMAINING CONTENTIOUS ISSUES (EG. POLICE UNIONIZATION, COST OF LABOR, REORGANIZATION OF MONTEDISON, NOMINATIONS TO BANK DIRECTORATES ETC.) SHOULD BE DEFERRED TO A HIGHER, POLITICAL LEVEL. ON JUNE 22, THE PARTY NEGOTIATORS REVIEWED THE STATE OF PLAY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRADE UNIONS. THE PRELIMINARY REACTION OF LABOR WAS PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE ON WAGE COSTS BUT NONETHELESS CAUTIOUS IN ITS OVERALL TONE: THE UNIONS ARE EXPECTED TO RELEASE A FORMAL STATEMENT TODAY. ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 24, THE PARTIES WILL SEEK THE VIEWS OF INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. (CONFINDUSTRIA).

2. YESTERDAY, FOLLOWING A MEETING BETWEEN ZACCAGNINI (DC) AND CRAXI (PSI), AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON HOW THE CONCLUDING POLITICAL COLLEGIAL MEETINGS WILL BE ORGANIZED. ALL PARTIES HAVE EVIDENTLY ACCEPTED CRAXI'S ARGUMENT THAT PROGRESS CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED BY LIMITING THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE SIX PARTY SECRETARIES (AND POSSIBLY ONE ASSISTANT EACH). CRAXI POINTED OUT (WHICH WILL CONVEY ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 24) NUMBERS IN EXCESS OF 40 PARTICIPANTS (A KIND OF "BARNUM'S CIRCUS" IN CRAXI'S WORDS). THEREFORE, AFTER FRIDAY'S MEETING WHICH IS TO CONSIDER AN AS YET UNDELIVERED 27 PAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DC DOCUMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION, SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WILL BE LIMITED TO THE PARTY SECRETARIES. THE FIRST SUCH "POLITICAL SUMMIT" MEETING MAY TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25. IT IS ALREADY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ADDITIONAL COLLEGIAL "SUMMITS" WILL BE REQUIRED.

3. THE PARTIES ARE PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR THE POLITICAL-LEVEL COLLEGIAL TALKS AT MEETINGS OF THE RESPECTIVE PARTY SECRETARIATS OR DIRECTORATES. THE PSI AND PSDI SECRETARIATS MET ON JUNE 22. THE PCI, PSDI AND PLI ARE HOLDING DIRECTORATE MEETINGS TODAY (JUNE 23). REPUBLICANS AND SOCIALISTS (AGAIN) ARE CONVENING THEIR SECRETARIATS AS WELL. THE DC DOES NOT NOW PLAN TO CONSULT ITS DIRECTORATE UNTIL AFTER THIS WEEKEND'S INITIAL MEETINGS.

4. THE SOCIALISTS, WHO FOR SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE COMPLAINED OF THE INADEQUACY OF A LIMITED AGREEMENT, NOW APPEAR MORE POSITIVE IN ASSESSING THE POLITICAL VALUE OF AN AGREEMENT ON A FEW "THINGS TO BE DONE".

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PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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IN TODAY'S ISSUE OF AVANTI, PSI-LEFT LEADER MANCA
SOFTENED HIS PARTY'S CRITICAL STANCE, WRITING THAT THE
PSI CONSIDERS "THE PARTIAL RESULTS ACHIEVED AS
INSUFFICIENT" BUT NONETHELESS AN ADVANCE TOWARD
THEIR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF A GOVERNMENT MAJORITY WHICH
INCLUDES THE PCI.

5. IF THE SOCIALISTS HAVE SOFTENED THEIR OPPOSITION
TO A LIMITED AGREEMENT, IT NOW APPEARS THE REPUBLICANS'
TURN TO THREATEN (ALBEIT NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME)
NOT TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AND EVEN GO INTO OPPOSITION.
WRITING IN VOCE REPUBRICANA, LA MALFA COMPLAINS THAT
THE AGREEMENT REFLECTS A DC-PCI-PSI CONSENSUS TO
THREAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN SUCH GENERAL TERMS AS TO
RENDER THE ACCORD MEANINGLESS IN TERMS OF COMING
TO GRIPS WITHTHE PROBLEM OF INFLATION, WAGE COSTS,
AND EVEN GOVERNMENT SPENDING LEVELS.

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6. WITHIN THE DC AND PCI, A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM PREVAILS. SPOKESMEN OF BOTH PARTIES HAVE INDICATED THEIR BELIEF THAT THE REMAINING SUBSTANTIVE OBSTACLES TO AN AGREEMENT ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. FINALLY, EVEN THE POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO AN AGREEMENT SEEM LESS FORMIDABLE. THE SOCIALISTS APPEAR TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE DC AGRUMENT, REITERATED EVEN MORE FIRMLY IN RECENT DAYS, AGAINST ANY CAHNGE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. THUS, IF THE PARTY SECRETARIES REACH AGREEMENT DURING THE COURSE OF NEXT WEEK ON A LIMITED AGREEMENT COVERING "CERTAIN THINGS TO BE DONE", THE WAY NOW SEEMS TO BE CLEAR FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGY WHICH WILL PERMIT THE SIBNATORY PARTIES TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROGRAM MEASURES (IE. AVOIDING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE) WITHOUT ALTERING THE EXISTING FORMULA BY WHICH THE ABSTAINING PARTIES SUPPORT THE DC MINORITY GOVERNMENT.GARDNER

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